

THR-0012 (contd); THR-0013

1 their money. If they can take the whole
2 country of Iraq and look for hidden,
3 underground items that are radioactive, maybe
4 could they come up here where we know it's
5 radioactive, and deal with it in honesty? And
6 what we are getting is dishonesty, ignoring.

7 The only thing that matters is the
8 vote. So if you inform them that Idaho,
9 Washington, Oregon, California, vote is going
10 to go against them if they continue this
11 policy. So, your comments to your Congressmen
12 do matter.

13 But for all of you, don't give up.
14 Hang in.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who else
16 would like to comment? Sir?

17 **THR-0013** MR. CLAY SMITH: Could I have
18 a few minutes that I didn't take before?

19 MR. DEE WILLIS: Come up.

20 MR. CLAY SMITH: Okay. My
21 name is Clay Smith. I am from The Dalles.

22 And I don't recognize a whole lot of
23 people from The Dalles here. And I am sorry
24 about that. Because, you know, we should be
25 here, too.

57

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0013 (contd)

1 Okay. This is just a couple things
2 I'm going to tell you, and this is what I
3 really believe, and I'm going to piss you off,
4 but, hey, that's the way it works.

5 I was back in Washington, D.C., I am
6 a PUD commissioner, on the electrical
7 transmission problems that we've got in the
8 country. And that's not this problem.

9 But the things that make the process
10 happen is the same. Okay? We're going to have
11 a real problem with this because the people of
12 the Northwest don't really count very much
13 because it's all about money, it's all about
14 power, it's all about population. Okay?

15 25, 30 years ago we had enough clout
16 in the Congress in the Northwest to where we
17 had some real powerful politicians and Senators
18 and they made a big difference, and they really
19 helped us in this area, but we don't have that
20 now.

21 Okay? And that's what it's all
22 about. It's all about dollars, it's all about
23 money, it's all about power. All I can tell
24 is, somehow the people that really care about
25 this, and it's got to be a lot more than what

58

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0013 (contd)

1

1 is in this room, we're going to have to get
2 going and we are going to have to do it right
3 away, because otherwise, hey, the trucks are
4 moving, and we're not going to be able to do
5 anything about it.

6 It's really discouraging. It's the
7 same thing on the power deal, too. The people
8 that have the power, that have the money, that
9 have the resources, are what's controlling the
10 country, and they're controlling this.

11 You can't blame the President. It's
12 the system. Okay?

13 So I've got to tell you, I don't
14 want to try to discourage you, but I've got to
15 say honestly, everything you can do, everybody
16 talking about the E-mail and the telephone
17 calls and everything else, round up as many
18 people as you can. If you know anybody of
19 influence in the East, because they've got the
20 money and they've got the influence, and you
21 can get something done there, to ally with us
22 on this problem, that's what we really need.
23 That's the only way it's going to work. It's
24 got to happen like that.

25 And the power situation that I'm

59

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0013 (contd); THR-0014

1 involved in, the Southeast has got the same
2 problems as the Northwest does. So we are
3 going to, it's coming along that way. But we
4 couldn't do it without them.

5 You've got to get some allies in
6 other parts of the country to help you. You
7 really do.

8 So, work on that, if at all
9 possible, and, hey, good luck.

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who's next?

11 Sir.

12 **THR-0014** MR. STEVE CURLEY: Hi. I am
13 Steve Curley. I live here in the Gorge, and I
14 have been coming to these meetings for a long,
15 long time.

16 And I'll tell you, when I saw that
17 little deal out here earlier, how they're going
18 to streamline this cleanup, yes, I can blame it
19 on this present administration. I'm sorry.
20 I'm not saying Billy boy, or George the first
21 was any better.

22 But this present administration is
23 terrible. I don't know how long it takes you
24 to read a 3,000 page book, but it takes me,
25 well, of course sometimes I have two or three

60

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0014 (contd)

1 books going, I'm a pretty good reader, but to
2 read a 3,000 page book, it's going to take me
3 more than 45 days.
4 Now, maybe if you're doing it 24/7,
5 I could do it in 45 days. But I cannot read a
6 3,000 page book. This time period for this, is
1 7 it an EIS? Yes, for the Environmental Impact
8 Statement, is ludicrous, it should be I would
9 imagine six months.

10 So maybe Joe six-pack who's sitting
11 out here in this audience could have time to
12 read this book, this 3,000 page document.

13 And of course this is irrelevant,
14 but if they kept this waste where it's
15 produced, San Francisco, Los Angeles,
16 "Phila-dam-delphia," wherever, if they stored
2 17 the waste where it came from, we wouldn't have
18 this problem.

19 But do you know what, I'd bet they'd
20 think twice about manufacturing as much waste
21 as they manufacture.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who's next?

24 Ma'am.

25 MS. LYNN MYSTIC HEALER: Hello.

61

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0015

1 I was just wondering how many people are from
2 the Columbia River Gorge --

3 MR. DEE WILLIS: Your name,
4 please.

5 **THR-0015** MS. LYNN MYSTIC HEALER: My
6 name is Lynn Mystic Healer.

7 How many people are from the
8 Columbia River Gorge Commission? Where are
9 they? Why aren't they here?

10 How many of you know people on the
11 Columbia River Gorge Commission? Get on them.
12 Get on them now, right now. They should be
13 responsible for what's happening on here.
14 Definitely.

15 And the Nature Conservancy. Who's
16 from the Nature Conservancy here? Multi
17 billion dollar corporations. They are
18 connected in with the Congress, too. They took
19 50 million dollars out of the State of Oregon
20 tax free. 736 million dollars in one year.
21 Tax free money. They have a role over in
22 Congress, too. They should be involved in
23 what's happening in the Northwest.

24 Call them. Talk to them. Get them
25 working. Thank you.

62

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0016

1 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who else
2 would like to offer comment at this point? You
3 will have chances later. Sir?

4 **THR-0016** MR. KEITH HARDING: Hi. My
5 name is Keith Harding. I live in the upper
6 Hood River Valley.

7 Two points. My perception is that
8 darn near every bit of agency money comes from
9 taxpayers. Not from industry. And my
10 perception is that for the most part, agencies
11 now tend to run interference for industry. In
12 the past we have paid industry by way of
13 taxpayers' money and they have made huge
14 profits at the Hanford Site.

15 Now we are paying some of the very
16 same corporations money to clean up this site,
17 or other associated organizations, private
18 corporations.

19 And it strikes me that agency people
20 need to get it really into their heads that we,
21 the taxpayers, should be the bosses, not the
22 corporate people.

23 Item two. An idea for mobilizing,
24 like this fellow from The Dalles said. There's
25 a lot of kids in the Gorge here with

63

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

THR-0016 (contd); Panel Discussion

1 grandparents in other parts of the country.
2 There would be fewer children at risk today if
3 there were more elders engaged in action, in at
4 risk.

5 How about E-mails to your kids'
6 grandparents all over the rest of the country?
7 Let them know their kids, their grandkids are
8 at great risk here in the Columbia River Gorge.
9 Get those elders mobilized. Let's get on it.
10 Thanks much.

11 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who's next?

12 Okay. I want to go on to the panel.
13 And we will do it differently. Tom, Mike,
14 Amber. Who am I missing? Greg. Yeah. I'm
15 sorry. Nick.

16 So here's what I would like to do.
17 These people are all experts on Hanford issues.
18 Here is the deal. I'm going to let you ask
19 questions, raise your hand, I will recognize
20 you.

21 If you want a specific person among
22 these five to respond, ask that person.
23 Otherwise just ask the question. Then let them
24 talk, let them respond as they want to. And
25 when they finish, we'll go to the next

64

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 question.

2 Any questions about that format?

3 All right. So, what I'd like to do is ask any
4 of the young people here, and there are a
5 number, I'm really impressed, if they have
6 questions that they would like to ask these
7 people.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's
9 your age limit?

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Sorry. No.
11 No way.

12 Is there anybody who hasn't spoken
13 yet who would like to ask a question? Lady in
14 the back and then you. And I would like for
15 you to give us your name and speak into the
16 mike.

17 MS. JULIA DAVIES: My name is
18 Julie Davies, and I was wondering if you could
19 tell me the number of gallons of nuclear waste
20 that has leaked into the ground water and the
21 number of gallons that have reached the
22 Columbia River. And also if these trucks that
23 will be driving with nuclear waste will be
24 identified so that people on the highway will
25 know to avoid these trucks.

65

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: As far as
2 the leaks and liquid discharges, as far as
3 liquid discharges to the environment, there's
4 been about a million or so, estimated million
5 or so gallons from the tanks.

6 And then it used to be a practice at
7 Hanford to dispose of liquid low-level waste
8 directly to the ground. And I think that
9 number was about 450 million -- billion gallons
10 that Greg mentioned earlier.

11 What was your second question,
12 about the --

13 MR. GREG deBRULER: Let's stay
14 on the first one first.

15 The other part that she asked was,
16 they admit that a million gallons had leaked
17 out of the tanks. Some estimates are over two
18 million gallons. So it's leaked high-level
19 waste into the ground.

20 The 445 billion or 450 billion
21 gallons of radioactive liquid contaminated
22 stuff that they dumped into the ground, that's
23 over the history of the Hanford Site.

24 What I have never been able to
25 determine, depending, and this is really, this

66

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 is how, when they are trying to do their
2 modeling of where the waste is today, and you
3 think of the vadose zone, if they dump 450
4 billion gallons in and it got the vadose zone,
5 all the dirt and all the soil for 250 feet
6 thick contaminated, I have seen various numbers
7 about how much of that waste hit the
8 groundwater and then went to the river.

9 Some people say very little of it
10 has hit the river. Some people out on-site now
11 who don't want to say that the waste is ever
12 going to move that is still trapped in there
13 has said most of it hit the river.

14 So, depending on who you talk to.
15 And these are scientists that work inside the
16 system. These aren't DOE people. These are
17 people that crunch the numbers, and do the
18 modeling, and do the stuff. So the answer is,
19 they don't really know.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else
21 on the panel?

22 Okay. What was the second question?

23 MS. JULIA DAVIES: Well, I
24 would now like to add a follow-up question on
25 that one. And then I will be done.

67

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Is there some kind of computer
2 generation that can tell if we had done
3 nothing, we do nothing with the nuclear waste
4 right now, at what point will there be so much
5 nuclear waste in the river that it will be a
6 dead river?

7 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: There is
8 modeling ongoing, but I don't know if any kind
9 of calculation like that has ever been done, to
10 say, let's just stop everything now and see
11 what happens. I've never seen a calculation
12 like that.

13 MR. GREG deBRULER: One of the
14 things that's required under CERCLA, when they
15 come out and they do basically a cleanup, they
16 are supposed to do a lot of characterization,
17 and then they are supposed to do calculations
18 for two things.

19 If you don't clean up the site, how
20 bad is the problem? Hanford has lots of
21 problems. If you don't do it, how bad's the
22 problem.

23 And then the other question is, if
24 you are going to remediate and try to clean it
25 up, how bad or how good, you know, did you

68

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 solve your problem?

2 That baseline risk assessment has
3 never been done at Hanford. So, that's why we
4 want an independent assessment done. So that's
5 part of the question.

6 The other part of the question is,
7 as far as calculation for like you said, when
8 the river is dead or something like that. Back
9 in 1995 when we started CRCIA, Columbia River
10 Comprehensive Impact Assessment, PNNL had done
11 an analysis --

12 MR. DEE WILLIS: PNNL?

13 MR. GREG deBRULER: Northwest
14 National Lab , or Battelle Memorial, had done
15 an analysis in the early '90s looking at the
16 problem with carbon tetrachloride, which is in
17 the 200 Area. It is about seven miles, if you
18 go seven miles from the central area, due north
19 you hit the river, if you go 15 miles due east.

20 They calculated that if the carbon
21 tetrachloride waste not cleaned up, that they
22 estimated 50 to 100 years, it was a span, that
23 when that carbon tet. hit the river, it would
24 kill all the life in the river. That's for
25 carbon tet.

69

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Now, that's not the other issues
2 that are out there. And the one thing that
3 you have to think about is that when we think
4 about killing off species, the government has a
5 level, lowest observable limit, and what's the
6 death, the LC 50, which is like 50 percent of
7 the fish die.

8 Where our concern is, speaking of
9 Columbia River Keeper, is not necessarily the
10 death levels, but is the sustainability of the
11 species, so the genetic damage that is being
12 passed on down.

13 And that issue we don't have a clue
14 on. And very little work has been done. So, I
15 will stop there.

16 MR. DEE WILLIS: Greg, I like
17 listening to you talk, but give your colleagues
18 on the panel a chance. Okay? Anybody else on
19 the panel?

20 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: Yes.
21 First I am going to take advantage of having
22 the microphone just to clarify something that
23 Greg said earlier.

24 I think he alluded to the fact that
25 EPA said that the groundwater wasn't going to

70

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 be cleaned up. And I didn't say that.

2 But the fact is, we are cleaning up
3 groundwater now. So part of the answer to your
4 question is I think, that we are trying to
5 intercept the groundwater we know is
6 contaminated before it goes to the river,
7 because that is a source of impact on the
8 species.

9 One thing that I try to explain to
10 people that ask about, you know, how does this
11 stuff reach the river, if you were to take a
12 sponge and put it on your counter and then pour
13 wine on top of it so it is something you could
14 clearly see, some it is going to make it
15 through the sponge, some of it is going to be
16 held up in the sponge, how much moves through
17 the sponge depends on how much more water you
18 put on top of it.

19 And that's kind of the dynamic we
20 have out there. We have got this vadose zone,
21 which is sort of like the sponge, which holds
22 contaminants, some of them get released over
23 time, but eventually most of them are going to
24 migrate down to that table top, or counter.
25 And then move along that to the river.

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 So that's what we're trying to do,
2 is understand how that works. And the question
3 is, if nothing was done, this is what you were
4 asking, what would the impact on the river be.

5 And we are, or DOE and their folks,
6 are looking at modeling that, trying to predict
7 how that would happen.

8 And we are concerned about as an
9 agency, EPA is now encouraging DOE to do a
10 river corridor risk assessment, which would
11 basically look at the whole river length from
12 one end of the site to the other to see what
13 the current impacts are, and then use that
14 information derived from those models to
15 predict exactly the question you are asking,
16 what happens if you do nothing, what happens to
17 these waste management practices.

18 Because more than anything else, EPA
19 wants to be in a position to tell you, the
20 people that we work for, what are the impacts
21 on the river under different scenarios. And we
22 are unable to completely do that now. And we
23 have to do a better job of it.

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Nick, what is
25 the vadose zone?

72

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: Well, that
2 is that area of unsaturated soil between the
3 surface and the groundwater. So, if you
4 imagine the groundwater as basically, all the
5 pores are filled with water, above that there
6 is some portion of the soil profile that's not
7 completely filled with water, and that's the
8 vadose zone.

9 MR. THOMAS STOOPS: The
10 question I heard you ask is how many
11 contaminants are going into the river today.

12 That's not defined. We know that
13 contaminants are moving into the river all
14 along the 100 Area, which is where all the old
15 reactors are. There's contaminants moving from
16 the central plateau into the river. Their
17 movement into the river is monitored.

18 There is numerical modeling going
19 on. But the modeling that's been done and the
20 monitoring that's been done hasn't been
21 summarized to tell you how many kilograms of
22 chromium are going into the river, how many
23 milliliters of carbon tetrachloride might be
24 moving into the river, how many curies of
25 radioactive compounds are going into the river.

73

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 So nobody has that answer for you today.

2 MR. DEE WILLIS: Let's move on.

3 Ma'am?

4 MS. IRENE FIELDS: Irene Fields
5 from Hood River. There is a lot of references
6 in the literature and in your statements about
7 shipping waste to New Mexico for disposal.

8 If New Mexico was planned for the
9 disposal, why are you planning to ship it first
10 to Hanford?

11 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: You are
12 talking about transuranic waste?

13 MS. IRENE FIELDS: Yes.

14 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Okay.
15 To get certification processes and buildings in
16 place is very, very expensive. The thought is,
17 if you are a very small site with 10, 20 cubic
18 meters, literally that volume of transuranic
19 waste, ship it to a bigger site with all
20 these -- that has these capabilities or will
21 have these capabilities, or will have these
22 capabilities, and we are half and half at
23 Hanford, and let them do it. And you can save
24 the money at the one site and use it for other
25 cleanup actions.

74

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. DEE WILLIS: Waste
2 certified?
3 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Certified
4 is the process of making sure that that
5 transuranic waste is okay to send down there.
6 Does that help? Or do you want me
7 to clarify more?
8 MS. IRENE FIELDS: I think I
9 understand. It just sounds pretty stupid.
10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Did you ask
11 whether the vehicles will be marked?
12 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: The lady
13 did.
14 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Will
15 they be marked?
16 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Yes.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What?
18 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: All
19 hazardous -- There's placards. All hazardous
20 material shipments that go on in the United
21 States, and there are about 300 million of them
22 a year, have to have what are called placards,
23 and they are those diamond shape things that
24 have numbers and letters and different symbols
25 in there for the different hazards.

75

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Panel,
2 I want to ask you to make your answers
3 succinct, because there are a lot of questions
4 out here.

5 Anybody who hasn't -

6 MS. AMBER WALDREF: Could I
7 just say about the transuranic waste, because
8 that, I don't know if this clarifies it or
9 makes it more complicated.

10 But what he is saying is some of the
11 waste is extremely hot, and they call that
12 remote handled, and there is no treatment or
13 permitted buildings to store that at Hanford
14 right now.

15 And that I think was, correct me if
16 I am wrong, but almost 90 percent of the waste
17 that was coming from the two different sites,
18 from Ohio and from California. Most of it was
19 remote handled TRU, and not the contact
20 handled, which Hanford does have treatment
21 capability for.

22 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I am
23 going to agree and disagree with you.

24 The amount of transuranic waste we
25 have received since November, whenever we

76

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 started receiving it, about 90 percent of it
2 was remote handled.

3 As far as not having permitted
4 storage, we have permitted storage for
5 ourselves and for other sites for that waste.

6 MR. DEE WILLIS: Who hasn't
7 spoken?

8 MS. AMBER WALDREF: Well,
9 anyway, but this waste that is coming to
10 Hanford, the transuranic waste, which
11 eventually, supposedly, maybe, will go down to
12 New Mexico, is the subject of the lawsuit
13 that's going on with the Columbia River Keeper,
14 Heart of America, the State of Washington.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: This
16 gentleman. Name.

17 MR. MIKE CLEMENT: My name is
18 Mike Clement, and I live in Hood River. I have
19 heard tonight several people say that they are
20 starting shipments tomorrow.

21 I guess I was under the opinion that
22 Washington had filed a stay to accept new
23 material at Hanford.

24 Is that not correct, or . . .

25 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: As far

77

(541) 276-9491 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES (800) 358-2345